



JOEL KITCHENS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 1ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Two Rep. Kitchens bills signed into state law

MADISON, Wis. – Rep. Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay) is honored that the governor signed two of his bills into law today at the state Capitol.

The first, Assembly Bill 134, commits \$5.2 million in Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program funding to help complete several high priority water infrastructure projects throughout the Wisconsin State Parks System.

“I am pleased that almost \$1.4 million of that total is going toward replacing the large toilet and shower facility at the Tennison Bay Campground at Peninsula State Park,” Rep. Kitchens said. “At more than 50 years old, this washroom is in desperate need of being upgraded.”

The remaining portion of the \$5.2 million will be used to replace water fountains, water lines and toilet systems at other state parks.

“With clean water being so vital to human health, we need to be doing all we can to protect the 17 million people who visit our state parks system every year,” Rep. Kitchens said.

Rep. Kitchens’ second bill that was signed into law, Assembly Bill 67, requires the state Department of Public Instruction to include the percentage of students participating in the arts on the annual school and school district accountability report cards.

The arts data will be added to the report cards for informational purposes only and won't be considered in a district's accountability calculations. Nevertheless, Rep. Kitchens still believes it is important for the state to provide this transparency so local communities will be more inclined to better understand and support what their schools are offering.

“When school districts face budget challenges, the arts are frequently the first courses to be cut,” Rep. Kitchens said. “However, study after study has proven that students who participate in the arts in school experience better pupil attendance and greater achievements in other subjects. I am also hoping that schools will use the report card information internally so they may compare their participation with other districts and make appropriate decisions. If our students begin to lose interest in the arts, we risk the chance of negatively impacting our state's economy, culture and creativity.”

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